

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 20, 2001

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-60)

to: John Baugher, KEWL-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Wagner Ranch Acquisition

**Project No:** 2001-040-00

**Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis**  
**(See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):** 2.15 Acquisition of Sensitive Riparian Resources

**Location:** John Day River Subbasin, Wheeler County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. (CTWSRO)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to purchase 9,253 acres of private property in the John Day Subbasin in Wheeler County, Oregon. Title to the land will be transferred to The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon for fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement. The Wagner Ranch is one of the last remaining parcels to be acquired for contiguous protection of riparian habitat along the lower mainstem John Day River. The Wagner Ranch abuts the Pine Creek Ranch, which is owned by the CTWSRO and was purchased for conservation purposes under the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program. Management of Wagner Ranch will compliment management actions on Pine Creek Ranch. The Wagner Ranch potentially supplies habitats for at least 36 animal and plant species that are listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Mark Berry with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). A comprehensive management plan will be prepared for the property after it is purchased and will follow the guidelines and mitigation measures detailed in the Watershed Management Program EIS and ROD.

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the fee-title purchase of the subject property. ESA listed species that may be present in the project vicinity include bald eagle, steelhead, and Columbia spotted frog. Section 7 consultation will be conducted by BPA and CTWSRO, as necessary, prior to the implementation of any restoration or enhancement activities on the site.

A cultural resource literature review was conducted by the Cultural Resources Department of the CTWSRO for the Wagner Ranch site through the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the tribal Cultural Resource Department files, and the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office records. The literature search identified six known Indian sites within the project area. No

known historic sites have been recorded within the Ranch boundaries, but the historic records suggest that the probability for historic remains in the project area is high. A cultural resource inventory will be conducted before any land disturbing activities are implemented on the site and a cultural resource management plan will be developed in conjunction with the Oregon SHPO, as necessary. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during developments that might occur prior to an archaeological survey, the CTWSRO Cultural Resources Department will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. Consultation on these findings has been initiated with the Oregon SHPO.

Public involvement associated with this project has included discussions with adjacent landowners and other interested parties at a public meeting held on August 9, 2001 following announcements in the local papers. Additional public involvement will be required during the development of a comprehensive management plan for the acquired lands.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart  
Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

DATE: 8-20-2001

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**Attachment:**  
NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/o attachment)  
Mark Berry - Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon